tect.——At a special meeting of the Edinburgh Town Council, it has been resolved to obtain tenders without delay for the construction of the new slaughter-houses, now to be immediately proceeded with.——The Inverness Harbour Trustees lately obtained from the Chancellor of the Exchequer a loan of 8,000*l.* for improvements of the harbour, by deepening the channel of the river, and constructing a new quay.

MODEL LABOURERS' HOUSE, HYDE-PARK.

IF not too late we would direct the attention of inventors of improved fittings for houses, to an advertisement which appeared in our last impression, from the Society for improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes. Prince Albert, being president of the society, was applied to in reference to a model structure, which they proposed to exhibit at the approaching exposition. The object was no sooner submitted to his Royal Highness, than he expressed deep interest in its accomplishment, and generously expressed his desire to make the building his own, by defraying the cost of its construction.

His Royal Highness has further taken much interest in the arrangement of the plan, and great trouble in obtaining permission to place the building in the stable-yard of the cavalry barracks, Hyde Park, immediately opposite the Exhibition-building, so that the numerous visitors to that centre of attraction may, without trouble, have the opportunity of carrying home some practical suggestion for improving the social condition of the working classes, whose labour so largely contributes to the Exhibition itself.

The plan of the model house is, in its general features, given in Mr. Roberts's Essay on Dwellings, &c., at the foot of page 37: it provides for the accommodation of four families, on a ground and first floor, and the same arrangement is equally applicable to a three or even four story house: each family will have a living-room of about 150 ft. superficial, *three* bed-rooms, a scullery, and water-closet, with a dust shaft.

The upper floor is approached by an open staircase and gallery, on the principle of the Streatham-street houses.

The construction is to be of hollow brick—walls, floors, and roof—rendering the building entirely fireproof.

NOTES ON GAS.

A NEW mode of lighting up turret clock faces with gas-light, perfectly self-regulating, it is said, has been invented by Messrs. Blaylock and Co., of Carlisle. "It lights itself at the proper hour, viz., at sunset each night, and nearly extinguishes itself at sunrise each morning, and follows the setting and rising of the sun from the shortest to the longest day, and again from the longest to the shortest day, with only a half-yearly adjustment."——The *Glasgow Examiner* reports as to another new invention by a Glasgow gentleman, Mr. James Allan, of Buchanan-street. This is a new gas and steam-generating apparatus for mansions, stations, farms, and public works, &c. The gas, like Mr. Stephen White's, is manufactured from rosin. A steam generator is connected with the apparatus, so that food can be cooked, apartments heated, hot water for washing, &c., supplied *ad infinitum*, and very little fuel be required. It can also be very easily taken asunder and as easily put together again by tenants. The apparatus is registered, and is to appear at the Industrial Fair.——The *Expositor* states that "an American has applied for a patent for a cheap and brilliant gas, produced on a new principle, which he states can be obtained at a cost less than 1d. per 1,000 feet. It is said that no wood, coal, or water is required; and that the material can be obtained anywhere. It is a self-acting and self-creating gas, called into action by an impulse of nature, from whence may be derived a new motive power of light and heat. An Englishman also asserts [in a recent number of THE BUILDER] he has a plan by which any one may produce his own gas by a machine like a table-lamp, not costing more, and creating a superior gas, at one-third the cost of coal-gas, requiring only to be turned on and lighted, but that he has not the means of protecting his invention from piracy."——A German, too, is said to have discovered an economical mode of decomposing water into gas for light and heat. This stir about gas throughout the world is something remarkable. Can there be a doubt that it is but the reverberation of our own great national movement and outcry for light—for a poor man's light, for warmth, comfort, and culinary convenience, as well as for cheerful light in every dwelling?——With reference, by the way, to THE BUILDER's share in this national movement, we have had our attention called, by a correspondent, to an unconscious and unintended, if not a very honourable, tribute to our exertions on behalf of the million, in a "Journal of Gas Lighting," that has lately stepped into the shoes of the defunct *Gas Gazette*, which, like its successor, owed its existence to this movement and to THE BUILDER as its metropolitan leader. In a recent number of the journal in question we are rather amusingly stigmatised—or honoured rather—as "THE monopolist of *incendiary* gas intelligence," although in almost the same breath we are somewhat inconsistently deprived of that honour, and declared to have "confined" ourselves to the mere "repetition of the thousand oft-repeated assertions of all the local agitators of the gas question (*i. e.*, of the *actual multo*polists of gas incendiarism) throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom." Waiving this little inconsistency, however, how comical and happy, yet self-stultifying, is the use of the term incendiary in such a relationship to the extension of gas-lighting throughout the country! An incendiary, properly speaking, is one who lights up what ought *not* to be burnt; but the very mission of gas *is to be* lit up and burnt, and he who creates or extends a conflagration of its burners throughout the country, is, indeed, an honourable and meritorious "incendiary." We accept the honor, and thank the donor; but with reference to his further statements or arguments about our mode of exciting the movement, we shall once for all only say that statements and arguments founded on falsehood and misrepresentation, may very easily be knocked up into an *imposing* structure, but are themselves rather quixotic objects of attack, unworthy even the expenditure of that single breath which knocks them down. Besides, we formally challenged all opponents, over and over again, while in the field, and how is it that not one dared to accept the challenge or appear against us till we had, as formally, after being for years in "incendiary" harness, announced that our initiative work was done, and that we, therefore, had deliberately laid down our weapons and retired from the field? It is not now worth our while to turn even a single step aside from our other onerous duties—and we shall not do so—even were a "lion in our path." Let the foe who only ventures to pounce upon us now that our eye is off him and his purpose, be satisfied with this little singeing of his whiskers by the "incendiary's" torch. It is too late now for *him* to attempt to extinguish that right-sturdy torch of truth: indeed, the gas-torch has already passed out of our hands into those of the "local agitators," to whose tender mercies we hereby, once for all, consign him.——Our readers may recollect of a reduction, some time ago, of the price of gas at Whitehaven (from 8*s.* to 4*s.*, if the statement now made by a contemporary be correct), and of our confidence that such a reduction, in place of injuring the company as stupid calculators prognosticated, would be for their benefit no less than for the benefit of the public. That result has already in this, as in so many other instances, been fully realised, the company having lately declared a dividend of four per cent. for the last *half*-year.——The Liverpool company, who were compelled to make repeated reductions, every time with protestations of their impossibility, and every time with benefit to themselves, until at length their own representative in a Parliamentary examination *advocated* further reductions still, in order to increase still more their previous profits,—are now again in so prosperous a condition that it is stated in a recent report of their affairs, that although "it was not unreasonable to suppose that so large a reduction in price as 25 per cent., which took place in 1845, was sufficient to preclude any hope of the rate being further reduced;" yet that "it would appear that even this hope may be realised at no distant period."——The price of gas at Bangor is to be reduced from 10*s.* to 8*s.* 4*d.* in the beginning of next month.——Bognor is about to be lit with gas: the building of the gasometer is already in progress, and the pipes are being laid with all possible despatch.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Berlin: a New Cartoon by Cornelius.—The completion of any new work by this master creates always great sensation with our German neighbours. The present cartoon represents the *Resurrection*, and is the third of the series for the Campo Santo of Berlin. This mystical picture represents an angel reposing on a rock,—beside him the book of life and death, yet unopened, while his right has grasped the sword of justice. His pensive features express a high earnestness; the sentiments of one of heavenly descent, who, with deep sorrow, fulfils his office against a portion of humanity. The sentence, however, which he has to pronounce is already expressed in nature and in the mind of those risen. Those to the left appear full of terror and despair, while those to the right and in the centre are animated by heavenly joy. Amongst the numerous surprising beauties of this composition, we may mention the figure of a female amongst the reproved, lying on the ground. It is the body of a heroine, whose powerful form is rendered with an energy and grandeur of style which reminds us of the finest examples of Grecian sculpture. But the pervading idea of this great picture is, that it is nature herself, the bent of mind and soul, which leads some of those here represented either to beatitude or reprobation.

Munich Art-Union.—At the late distribution of prizes, ninety-five oil paintings, three aquanells, three paintings on porcelain, two drawings, and six plastic works were disposed of. Amongst the former, forty-three were landscapes; of which an Alpine torrent, by A. Zimmermann, a charming moonlight by Morganten, and an *incomparable* scenery of a storm, are chiefly remarkable. Of architectural pictures, a "Hunting Villa," by Kirchner; a "View of Venice," and the "St. Lorentz Church, at Nurnberg, deserve notice.

Excavations undertaken by the Archæological Society of Dijon.—This society, who have found that the locality about *Landanum* was of great antiquarian interest, have obtained from Government an especial grant for this undertaking. After having cleared off the *débris* of a *balneum* and *tepidarium*, there was found to the east of the baths, and on the western slope of the hill the substratum of a square tower, which was close to the walls of the old city. Its base, composed of *statumen*, forms above the ground a widening, indicating that it has served as a reservoir for the water already used in the baths. In the midst, a pretty large excavation seems to indicate a *hypocaust*, hewn in the main rock. The whole circumference of the *termæ* has been also cleared, whose length is 31 metres. Ancient pottery, and some basso-relievos, have been also hitherto discovered.

STAFFORD PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMPETITION.—The successful competitor for the "Stafford Public Buildings" is Mr. John Young, Jun., of London. Fourteen designs were furnished to the Committee of Selection.

BRIDGE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.—The *Toronto Patriot* announces that "the magnificent bridge between Lewiston and Queenstown, Canada, near the falls of Niagara, had been so far completed that the engineer had crossed to the American side. The bridge is the largest structure of its kind in America."

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